(b) The responsibility for motivating Sarpanches primarily vests in State Governments. The Union Government in the Ministry of Panchayati Raj assists the process by making available funds under its Capacity-building and Training Schemes. A proposal is under process for providing sufficient funds to the Panchayats Empowerment and Accountability Incentivization Scheme to incentivize States to effectively endow the Panchayats with Functions, Finances and Functionaries and to hold the Panchayats accountable to their respective Gram Sabhas for the efficient and honest delivery of services and works.

(c) As per Article 243E of the Constitution, all States and Union Territories covered under Part IX of the Constitution are required to hold elections regularly within five years. By and large, elections to Panchayats have been held regularly in all States/UTs except Jharkhand. There is litigation pending before the Hon'ble Supreme Court in regard the Panchayati Raj system in Jharkhand. The matter is being pursued for an early hearing.

Implementation of schemes through Panchayats

† l916. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have considered to implement the schemes declared by Central Government through Panchayats;

(b) if so, the facts in this regard and its outline;

(c) the States where Panchayats have duly been constituted; and

(d) by when the target of constituting the same properly in the remaining States would be met?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) In conformity with the letter and spirit of Part IX of the Constitution, read with Article 243 ZD and the Eleventh Schedule, these Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) covering the 29 subjects listed in the Eleventh Schedule of the Constitution are to be planned and implemented by Panchayati Raj Institutions functioning as "Institutions of Local Self-Government". While the guidelines in respect of some CSS, provide for the centrality of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs), there are other CSS where the PRIs are yet to assign a central role. In order to clarify and ensure the role of the PRIs in all CSS, consultations are being held with the Central Ministries concerned under the aegis of the Cabinet Secretariat.

(c) and (d) Panchayats in all States and Union Territories (UTs), covered under Part IX of the Constitution, have been duly constituted except in the State of Jharkhand where Panchayat elections have not been held owing to pending litigation before the Hon'ble Supreme Court.

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.